



**Colorado People's Action (CPA)
Endorsement Questionnaire
Aurora City Council 2019**

- 1. Tell us a little bit about yourself.**
 - a. **Why did you decide to run for office and what will your top 3 priorities be if elected to council?** *//My interface with the City of Aurora to move forward with Providence at the Heights, was the impetus for my run. It became apparent that despite complying with the appropriate municipal codes, and overachieving in our efforts to be great neighbors, the level of NIMBYism within the City governance structure led to our site plan being denied. There are four distinct structures within the City that must change, and I want to be a part of this critical change management work.*
 - b. *//Transportation, Affordable Housing and Healthy and Safe Communities are my top 3 priorities.*

- 2. The US ranks as a country with one of the highest rates of incarceration in the world and the poorest, most marginalized and people of color disproportionately represent jail and prison populations. What would you do to push the city to address systemic racial bias within the criminal justice system?** *//The City is past time in addressing racial bias in the CJS. Aurora Municipal Code 3-9 clearly outlines the municipal powers for this governing body. City Council can call for studies, evaluate convictions, and if it dares to be so bold, overturn convictions at the local level. Additionally, we must dare to think differently about what safety looks like. Further, we must reconsider what "policing" looks like.*

- 3. Aurora is the most diverse city in the entire state, with many immigrants within our community.**
 - a. **What is your opinion about the humanitarian crisis happening inside the GEO Immigration Detention Facility and what actions will you take, if any?** *//Aurora is a Congressional District, so holding our Congressman accountable to see to the Inspector General's findings is critical. The City issued a business license to GEO, so we've a role to play in ensuring the health and safety of those who dwell there, and those who work there. I point to the City's municipal powers, which are outlined in Aurora Municipal Code 3-9.*
 - b. **Yes or No - Do you support closing all private prisons?** *//Yes!*
 - c. **Will you work to move Aurora to become a "Sanctuary City" and establish a Legal Defense Fund? Why and explain your definition of "sanctuary city"**

//We have the appropriate nonprofit organizations in Aurora to support our being a Sanctuary City. Asylum seekers, and those who are actively undertaking the process toward naturalization/citizenship should be free to live, work, and play in our community, without fear of arrest/detainment or indiscriminate deportation.

- 4. Would you drop citizenship requirements for all boards and commissions? Why?**
//Yes. Aurora is diverse, and these diverse voices and experiences must inform the way we govern our City.
- 5. We're seeing localities across country moving toward 100% renewable energy. Do you support transitioning Aurora to a 100% renewable energy economy? If so, by when? How will you ensure that communities of color, low-income communities, workers and transit dependent community members are not left behind?** *//It is critical that we work with the Subject Matter Experts to inform what a Renewable Energy Roadmap would look like. There have been significant gains in the "uptime" of energy sources not fueled by natural gas and oil. We've now to manage the cost, as well. While natural gas and oil are less expensive than renewables, the challenge will always be to convince society to make the change.*
- 6. The oil and gas industry in Colorado is edging closer and closer to residential districts, do you have a plan to protect Aurora residents from health and environmental hazards associated with their operations? Do you support a full ban on fracking?** *//There are two lanes to navigate here. First, Developers are fully aware of the natural resources in the ground, and who owns the mineral rights, long before the land is developed. Second, that information IS published in the buyer's closing documents. As the City considers turning these developments on (approving site plans, permitting, etcetera), a mandate for FULL DISCLOSURE must be a contingency for approval. The City must STOP waiving its right of consideration of contracts/operating agreements with industry – any industry – as a condition of moving forward. SB19-181 facilitates local control, and Aurora's status as a Home Rule City and AMC 3-9 means the City has full authority and autonomy to establish a moratorium on drilling and fracturing. The new Council should move to establish a moratorium until the State has settle on its rules making for SB19-181, at a minimum.*
- 7. Where do you stand on workers ability to collectively bargain, and would you support a resolution for the workers in the city of Aurora to do so?** *//I'm pro-union.*
- 8. Aurora now has the power to increase its wages, will you support and fight for**

Aurora to increase its minimum wage at a higher level than that of the state?

What amount do you think that should be? //The Colorado Center on Law and Policy: Self-Sufficiency Standard is clear on what the living wage should. The minimum wage should be a living wage, based on the cost of living in the various zip codes in Aurora.

- 9. We are facing an affordability crisis and many in our community specifically communities of color and low-income folks are being pushed out. What will you do to address affordability issues?** //It wasn't long ago that Aurora had a full complement of housing options, and more than one path to home ownership, whether condos, townhomes, single-family homes, and various rental options. All Developers interface with the City of Aurora to approve site plans and secure permitting. The City can insist on affordability/attainability for development. With a Smart Development Roadmap, any proposed development should serve the plan. If it doesn't, we deny it; then, go back to the table to support a renegotiation. Affected communities must be included in the early stages of visioning/planning, to inform the process; and the Self-Sufficiency Standard must be the litmus test for what IS and what is NOT affordable/attainable.
- 10. If elected, what is your plan for working with community and your vision for changing politics as usual?** //I will create space for that interface, intentionally. We've also a duty to show up IN community, versus insisting that community comes to us. This simple, but necessary step will go a long way to shift our political schema. Aurora must have an Ethics Ordinance, and true Campaign Finance Reform. And I'd also consider moving to a fulltime Council that meets more often. Agenda stacking, rushing through Study Sessions, and not having adequate time to ponder backup material is exponentially more difficult for Council Members and Community Members, when the Council only meets once or twice per month.
- 11. Will you commit to meeting with COPA quarterly?** //Yes. At least quarterly, and as needed.
- 12. Aurora occupies three counties, what is your plan to reconcile them and advance community-centered policy across Aurora as a whole?** //This takes intentionality. Within the first 45 days, I'd host an opportunity for all three governing bodies to meet, and to talk through our shared destiny.
- 13. What are your thoughts on accountability, are you open to be held accountable by groups and community and are you willing to hold others accountable to a vision**

for a better Aurora? //We are a representative government, and Council Members are accountable to our neighbors. Integrity and character matter. It is not an unreasonable expectation that Aurorans are centered in the work, that Aurorans inform our own governance, and that those who represent us in elected office, are fully accountable to Aurorans. There is a second side to that coin. Aurorans also have accountability. Look forward to discussing the later, once we meet.